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# SHORTIA

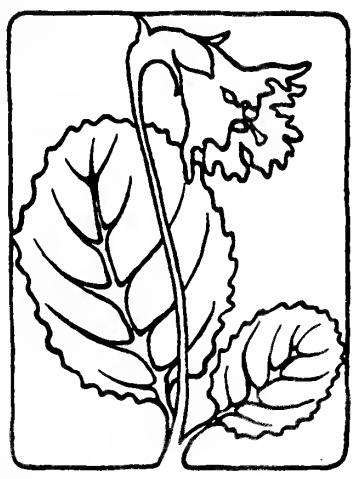
NEWSLETTER OF THE  
WESTERN CAROLINA BOTANICAL CLUB

SPRING 1994

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NEW YORK  
BOTANICAL GARDEN



ELTON and ALINE HANSENS  
Editors

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**WESTERN CAROLINA BOTANICAL CLUB**

President:	Dorothy Rathmann	Treasurer:	Elaine Montgomery
Vice President:	Don Herrman	Recorder:	Erika Parmi
Secretary:	Jane Blackstone	Historian:	Louise Foresman

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**FROM THE PRESIDENT..... Dorothy Rathmann**

**PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

The February-June issue has some new artwork -- bloodroot and Indian pipe -- drawn by (who else?) Aline Hansens. Thanks, Aline!

Please make a few corrections:

- April 15 and 29 and June 27 -- Elton Hansens' phone 704-277-7486
- March 4 -- Elton Hansens will be local contact (not me)

Note that reservations should be made for the following trips:

- April 4-6 -- Forty Acre Rock/Carolina Sandhills Refuge
- April 25 -- Bat Cave
- April 26-27 -- Great Smoky Mountains National Park
- May 9 -- Travis Tracks

With luck we'll not have as many weather-caused cancellations as last year. I'm eager to see wildflowers again -- as I hope you are.

**WHAT'S THIS PLANT?**

Do you want to increase your skills in using the Plant Key found in field guides, such as the Locator Key in "Newcomb"? Then stay close to Bill Verduin on field trips. He's offered to share his expertise -- and he's a GOOD teacher. Be sure to bring your wildflower book and a hand lens or small magnifying glass.

**DUES -- AND HOW THEY'RE USED**

At the Annual Meeting on January 21, Treasurer Elaine Montgomery reported that the year-end balance was \$594, down from \$850 at the end of '92. Obviously, expenses exceeded income from dues. We spent \$8.78/member.

The major expenditure of \$780 was for printing and distributing 4 issues of SHORTIA, 2 Program Schedules, a Membership List/Roster, and Plant lists for the field trips. Contributions totalling \$225 were made to 4 organizations: University Botanical Gardens at Asheville, NCSU Arboretum, Duke University Gardens, and NC Totten Arboretum.

Dues are \$8.00/member or family. If you've not already done so, please send a check payable to the Western Carolina Botanical Club to Elaine Montgomery, 1636 O'Hara Circle, Hendersonville, NC 28739. The Roster goes to press February 28 and will list only paid-up members.

## HONORS

At the Annual Meeting **Millie Blaha** was given the Second Wind Hall of Fame Award for her activities as teacher, photographer and newspaper column writer; for her part in the development of two education programs for Holmes Educational State Forest; and for her efforts in getting the Mud Creek and Jackson Park wetlands listed in the NC Registry of Natural Areas. Congratulations and thanks, Millie!

**Dick Smith** was made an Honorary Life Member of WCBC for past and present leadership. Before Dick left for Costa Rica, Bill Verduin gave him a sealed envelope to be opened on January 21. On January 24 Dick wrote from Costa Rica: "When I told you I would be away during the Club's Annual Meeting, I had no idea that I would also be missing the opportunity of thanking everyone concerned for the very special honor that was to have been extended to me. It was particularly thoughtful to see that I received a copy of the citation before taking off and I obediently refrained from opening the envelope until the day of the meeting. On that morning we were indeed in the jungle -- specifically in the remote Tortuguero National Forest on the Atlantic side of Costa Rica, and were awakened by howler monkeys and a nesting flock of Montezuma oropendulas. More to the point (and ironically) I was in the midst of an incredibly rich rain forest flora, and I must confess that except for just a few species I had virtually no idea of what we were seeing. It would be a sobering experience for anyone who imagines having a handle on botany -- and the message certainly was not lost on me! ...."

We also sang "Happy Birthday" to **Harry Logan** -- his 88th.

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The '93 Officers were unanimously reelected for another year. So the Executive Committee remains unchanged. We'll do our best for the WCBC this year.

## COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

The Committee chairpersons are the same as last year (they're doing a good job and I don't want to lose the momentum):

**Distribution of Publications:** Ruth Hoerich

**Historian:** Louise Foresman

**Honors:** Dean Crawford

**Membership:** Ruth Hoerich, Elaine Montgomery, John Saby

**Program Schedule:** Dorothy Rathmann

**Recorder:** Erika Parmi

**SHORTIA:** Elton and Aline Hansens

**Typist for Schedule:** Harriet Kuster

Although members of these committees will be essentially the same as last year we'll be involving some newer Club members and asking them to participate more actively in Club affairs. If you have a particular interest or talent you'd like to share, please let me know.

**RECORDER'S REPORT - THE YEAR 1993.....ERIKA S. PARMI**

A total of 42 field trips and 2 overnights were scheduled for the year 1993. Six of these trips were cancelled due to weather conditions and the overnight to Beidler Forest was cancelled because the drought conditions had interfered with normal growth of plants we had hoped to see.

The cold, rainy spring and the summer of heat and drought gave us a less than glorious season of flower-watching. Anne Ulinski summed it up quite nicely in one of the trip reports, "Although spring flowers are scarce this year, we appreciated every one." Perhaps the greatest effect of the drought was noted at Sugarloaf where the meadow at the top of the mountain almost completely dried up. In spite of this Sugarloaf remained at the top of the list for the number of species seen. Two of our other meadow trips did not disappoint us, Bee Tree Gap and Haywood Gap, so the season was not a total loss.

On 13 of our trips over 40 species were seen with the top 5 trips being Sugarloaf and University Botanical Gardens each at 75, Soco/Heintooga at 60, Tanbark Tunnel at 59 and the spring Parkway West trip at 50. Two of our field trips attracted over 30 members, 14 trips over 20 members and all trips had more than 10 participants except for Roan Mountain and the late fall trip to Jones Gap.

In closing I would like to like to thank the members of the Recorder's Committee, Louise Foresman, Elton Hansens, Grace Rice, Bessie Sinish, Anne Ulinski and Bill Verduin for their good work. I would like to add a special note of thanks to Jane Blackstone for her outstanding plant lists and trip reports.

**GETTING TO KNOW YOU.....ALINE HANSENS**

**Hollis, Dorothy:** Box 1934, Brevard, NC 28712, (704) 885-8366. Moved here from Georgia 7 yrs. ago. Is a homecare nurse with an avid interest in birds and plants.

**Polchow, Peggy** Rt. 13, Box 280, H'ville, NC 28739 (704) 692-0703. winter address: 307 Bells Drive, Metairie, LA 70005. (504) 834-8127. Peggy vacations in H'ville and looks forward to participating in the summer trips.



**Russell, Reed and Irene (Mackum)** 95 Flat Top Mt. Rd., Fairview, NC 28730. Both are full time teachers at UNCA and Warren Wilson College and look forward to summer club trips when they will be free to participate.

**Shelly, Lorrie** 222 Park Lane, H'ville, NC 28739. (704)891-8502. Moved here from Rochester, NY ten years ago after early retirement. An active community volunteer, she pursues an interest in nature as a hobby and looks forward to increasing her knowledge of plants.

## GET A HANDLE ON PRONOUNCING SCIENTIFIC NAMES

by Larry Mellichamp

UNC Charlotte Botanical Gardens, Biology Department, Charlotte, NC 28223

Whythesolongnames? Whatever your reaction to the preceding "word" is probably your reaction to Latin names of plants. Did you try and figure it out, or did you just take one look and say: "not for me!"

Scientific names can, of course, be difficult to pronounce and understand, especially if you don't use them every day. You probably accept that the two-part name of each plant—a genus and a species name—is a necessary component of botanical science and that they are widely used and understood by professionals; but you hesitate to use a name when you want to talk with someone because you're afraid you'll say it wrong. Take heart, you are not alone. Just remember, Linnaeus began using this binomial nomenclature in 1753, not because he wanted to make things harder for you, but because Latin was the language of science and medicine (as well as religion and other fields) at the time. Believe me, his two-part name for each species was a great simplification over the multi-word phrase names used earlier (sometimes involving a dozen or more Latin words, literally a mini-description of the plant). Today, Latin allows knowledgeable people around the world to communicate about plants, no matter what their native tongue, and without the confusion of common names.

Actually Latin names are not as difficult to pronounce as you might think. After all, most of the vowel sounds are similar to those in English words (that is, with long i and e); and you can think back to Latin names you already know when trying to say a new one, such as the familiar *Rosa*, *Tulipa*, *Astilbe*, *Geranium*, *Hosta*, *Spiraea* (remember this one for later!), *Salvia*, *Sedum*, *Lobelia*, *Cyclamen*, *Crocus*, and many more. There are long or short "a's," "u's," etc., and enunciation is controlled by these sounds. The other thing you can do is break the word into syllables, just as you would an English word, putting a vowel between two consonants and trying to sound them out. English has a great many difficult words and pronunciations, so we shouldn't let the fact that a Latin word looks different give us the notion that it is more troublesome to pronounce. I get more variations on "Mellichamp" than most Latin names I hear people try to pronounce.

Latin names still give us problems, just because they are usually so unfamiliar. How do you learn to correctly pronounce a strange scientific plant name? That question is analogous to asking someone how to get to Chapel Hill. You ask three different people and you'll get three different answers. It all depends on where you are coming from, how well you can remember details, your past experience, how much time you have, and whether you can practice. My advice is that you ask three experienced people, and take the best two out of three pronunciations. Much of the way people say Latin names depends on their experience—how they first heard it pronounced. You can apply various rules of Latin pronunciation, but there will always be variations and differences of personal preference. There are two ways of pronouncing Latin: the so-called original Roman way, practiced by Latin scholars; and the modern adaptation more-or-less to the speech people use today. We tend to "Englishize" Latin words to make them easier for us to pronounce; and since not all scientific names originally come from Latin, we have, to "Latinize" these words to fit our way of talking. For example, the genus name for pine is *Pinus*. In strictly correctly Latin you would say *PEA-noose*; whereas, we tend to say *PIE-nus*. The latter is certainly easier to remember. [In this article, capitalizing a syllable indicates it's the one to stress.]

I encountered frustration as an undergraduate student taking my first systematic botany course where we had to identify wild species using the "Guide to the Flora of the Carolinas" in the late sixties at UNC Charlotte. I had not paid much attention to pronouncing scientific names before, but I did not hesitate to try. As usual, you learn more from your mistakes; and I learned a lot! My first eager effort was to pronounce *Cardamine* (spring cress) as "CARD-amine," by referring back

to the more familiar word "histamine." You wouldn't think of saying "hist-AM-in-ee," but that's exactly how you pronounce *Cardamine*. One of the rules of Latin is to pronounce as many syllables as you can, by pronouncing every vowel. So that extra "e" on the end gets pronounced. There are significant exceptions, as we'll see, but that's a good rule to start with. Practice on: *Silene*, *Chelone*, *Anemone*.

The second rule of pronunciation requires you to break the word into syllables, which can be a feat in itself, and then to enunciate the third from the last (the antepenultimate) syllable, unless you know better. That is, you have to decide which syllable to put the emphasis on. Thus, *Cardamine* would be pronounced "car-DAM-in-ee," not "car-da-ME-knee." There are many familiar examples you can recall, such as kris-ANTH-e-mum (*Chrysanthemum*), LIL-e-um (*Lilium*), ah-NEM-on-ee (*Anemone*), de-FIN-ee-um (*Delphinium*), PRIM-you-la (*Primula*), ger-AIN-ee-um (*Geranium*) and cam-PAN-you-la (*Campanula*). See how funny they would sound if you put the emphasis on the second-from-last syllable. There are plenty of exceptions to this rule, though, both familiar and unfamiliar. Try *Rho-do-DEN-dron*, *Cor-e-OP-sis*, *Hi-BIS-cus*, *Ver-BE-na*, and *Por-tu-LA-ca*. See how these would sound if you tried to enunciate the third from last syllable. The rules are: There are as many syllables as vowels; words of two syllables are stressed on the first; of three or more syllables, on the next-to-the-last (penultimate) if the vowel in this syllable is long; if this vowel is short, accent may be on the third from last (antepenultimate). How many of the above names follow the rules?

So, how do you know which is the correct way on an unfamiliar name? You don't, until you hear someone pronounce it and then accept it for yourself as sounding right. Take the evening primrose genus for example, *Oenothera*. I learned to pronounce it "een-oh-THEAR-ah," but was shocked to later hear a British botanist say "ee-NOTH-er-ah." Which is correct? The third from the last syllable would be in keeping with the rules, but here in America most experts emphasize the second from last in this case. There are many examples of this. Is it just tradition, or what? Perhaps it has to do with making the words sound most like they would as ordinary English words. I recently worked with a high school student on tree identification. He had taken three years of Latin and he pronounced plant names somewhat differently from me; he was applying rules that I didn't even know. We almost had a breakdown in communication.

Two examples of mispronunciation that hurt my ears the most involve *Crassula* and *Clematis*. These are very common generic names, and frequently used. The "correct" way is to emphasize the antepenultimate syllable in both: CRASS-you-la (not crass-OO-la) and CLEM-a-tiss (not cle-MA-tiss). Think about it.

Before we get too far away from the British style, let me point out another difference upheld by the Atlantic Ocean (but often heard in Canada). It is the pronunciation of "ch" as a hard "k" versus a soft "ch" as in "church." Americans tend to prefer the hard sound. Thus in Britain you will hear *Chionanthus* (fringe tree), *Cheilanthes* (hairy lip fern), and *Chenopodium* (pigweed) with a "ch" sound as in "chutney"; while we in the States would be more familiar with "ch" as in "chiropractor." But, then we tend to say *Chaptalia* (sun bonnets) and *Chelone* (turtle head) with a soft "ch" (as in chapstick and cheese). Where is consistency? Makes things harder, doesn't it.

*Dr. Mellichamp is head of the Biology Department at UNC Charlotte, Professor of Botany, and distinguished lecturer.*

This article will be continued in *SHORTIA* Vol. XVI, No.2, May 1994. The article is published in *Shortia* from *WILDFLOWER*, Vol. 3, No. 2. n.s. of the North Carolina Wildflower Preservation Society with the permission of Dr. Mellichamp and the approval of Mrs. R. D. Welshmer, Editor of *Wildflower*.

THREE GRASSES.....SAM CHILDS

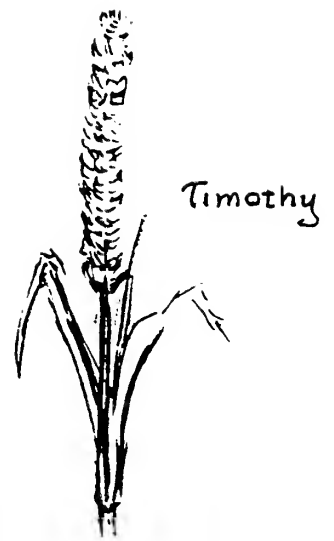
Surely identification of grasses is complicated and difficult but three species which commonly cross or parallel our trails can be learned without great difficulty. All 3 are perennials of european origin and escaped from cultivation or were planted for soil control.

Timothy (Phleum pratense) can be spotted by the straight 2' to 3' stem and narrow cylindrical inflorescence. This grass was first called Herd's grass when noticed in New Hampshire. Later (1747) Timothy Hanson brought the grass to Maryland, hence the name. By 1807 timothy was the most important hay crop in America; then from crop land seeds escaped to grow on roadsides, fields and paths.

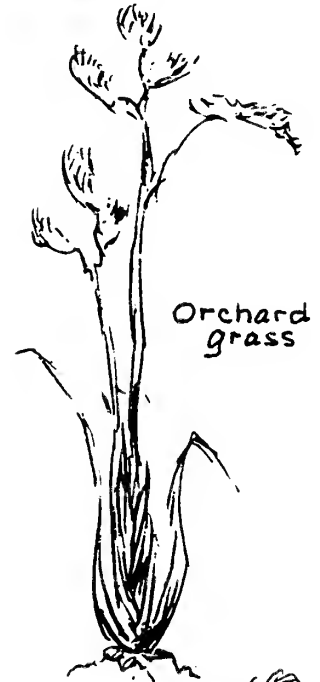
Orchard grass (Dactylis glomerata) was introduced in 1760 and was noted in the writings of George Washington. The grass can readily be identified by the bunch-like irregular round clusters on the inflorescence. The plant base is clump-like with a tussock form of growth. (This gives space between clumps for other grasses and clover mixtures). Shade and heat tolerance allows wide-spread use for hay, grazing, and erosion control.

The Fescues: meadow fescue (Festuca elatior) and tall fescue (Festuca elatior var. arundinacea).

About 100 fescue species grow in temperate zones but the above two are most likely to be observed on our trails. Similar in details except for the obvious 2' and 4' in height respectively, these grasses are more resistant to cold, heat, poorly drained soils and drought than most cultivars. In our region these qualities are appreciated where the seeds are sown for stabilizing slopes, water-ways, and reed banks. At these places fescue can be noticed as one of the "greens" of mid-winter.



Timothy



Orchard grass



Fescue

HANS PETER KNAPP WRITES A CHRISTMAS LETTER TO LARRY KENYON, DEC. '93.

Many of us will remember this jovial bearded man, teacher and botanist. (Typed as written).

"It's chilly and cold in the hills of St. Gallen. The landscape is covered with snow, lovely sunshine, a harsh wind is blowing. From the top of Freudenberg you can see the frontmountains of the Helvetic Alps, the region of the Santis. It is really marvelous view you should see together with me. I'm just coming back from a nice walk with my Italian dog Capo, back in my house to the warm tiled stove and listening nice Christmas music "On Yoolis night" -- medieval carols and motets.

I think it is the time I have to write a "Christmas letter" to give my friends a sign of life in MY best English. Maybe you enjoy listening something--at least a part of it.

1993 was for me a really fascinating year, my first CHINA-experience. After I had started to plant the small Arboretum Tognano in the Southern Lake District in the Italian speaking part of Switzerland 1986 ... after my journey to the Appalachian mountains with the lovely Botanic Club of Western Carolina and the Expedition of the Black-Bear Projekt with Roger Powell, I had decided to go to Sichuan to see the famous vegetation in the summer of 1993 \*\*\* It was the experience of my life to see a lot the wonderful plants which China-Wilson, Przewalzky and other excellent biologists and botanists had discovered long time ago. And reading now the different reports of these scientists it's really great to realise again: Here on this point was discovered the lampshade poppy or the scarlet poppy or Lilium regale. \*\*\*

I had to learn first different things about chinese life and chinese journeys: how to buy a ticket, how to find chinese hotels, how travel around by chinese bus (not in the rather expensiv taxis) and I met a lot of very friendly Chinese.

After all it was a good experience but travelling alone in China can be very strenuous: After a flight from Xi'an to Nanking I was without any luggage and I had to be very, very steadfast to receive back my luggage which had made a journey to Canton. Also I had some rather hard journeys to Tunxi by train \*\*\* first to receive a train-ticket, than to go by hard seat in a overcrowded train, to stay there , not to be welcome \*\*\* in chinese local trains it isn't always to easy: It seems that not every chinese poeple loves European people.

I met in Tunxi some very nice friends from Australia, some American people, and again chinese guides (their English was very difficult to understand also for the Australians and the Americans) but it was easier during the time in Tmxi in Anhui to find a way together with the chinese guides, than traveling alone \*\*\* but not so easy to find par example a topographic map of the area of Huang-shan mountains or to understand the chinese "information system". With some young chinese people it was quite nice to have a conversation but the English pronunciation of the leader was too difficult to understand. He has learned it from the dictionary (I think so) and had no experience of conversation. \*\*\*

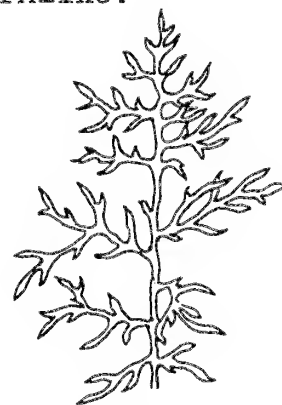
Now we start to fire our oven to make a pizza. If you like to come to drink with us a bottle of Italian vine and to eat some Italian food. We will start in half an hour. Welcome...but you have to hurry up. \*\*\* Hans Peter (S).



# LOOK AGAIN !

One of the earliest and brightest of our spring composites is the ubiquitous Golden Ragwort (Senecio aureus), with its deep yellow-orange flower heads and vegetative parts that are often suffused with purple. The lower leaves are round or heart-shaped, while those on the stem may appear more fernlike.

Scarcely less familiar is the one that follows on its heels--Small's Ragwort (formerly S. smallii, now S. anonymus). In this common species the general aspect is yellowish green rather than purplish, and the basal leaves have lanceolate blades that are variously toothed or lobed. In some plants these leaves are seen to be finely dissected, and this can lead to the assumption that they are specimens of the Southern Appalachian endemic S. millefolium, but this is the case only if none of the segments of the basal leaves is as much as 3 mm wide.



S. MILLEFOLIUM



S. ANONYMUS

The confusion is caused by the hybridization of these two species, which sometimes grow in close proximity. This produces S. x memmingeri, in which the leaves exhibit a wide variety of intermediate forms. This tendency also raises the possibility that some populations of the already rare S. millefolium might be eliminated.

Dick Smith

S H O R T I A

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Spring 1994

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Editors: Elton J and Aline Hansens      Distribution: Ruth Hoerich. Please submit contributions (articles, Letters to the Editors, notes, etc.) for the next issue by May 10, 1994 to Elton J. Hansens, Givens Estates, 125 Far Horizons Lane, Asheville, NC 28803. (Telephone: (704) 277-7486).

**REMINDER** 1994 CLUB DUES OF \$8.00 are to be paid to the treasurer, Elaine Montgomery, 1636 O'Hara Circle, Hendersonville, NC 28739.

SHORTIA  
c/o Ruth Hoerich  
215 Newport Road  
Hendersonville, NC 28739

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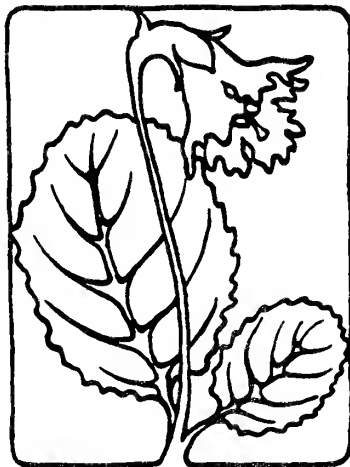
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FROM THE PRESIDENT..... Dorothy Rathmann

This Spring we've been fortunate in having good weather for most of the field trips. From my point of view the best were those into the Smokies: Roaring Fork Motor Nature Trail, Cove Hardwood Nature Trail, the Greenbriar area and, especially, the Fines Creek area up to Max Patch. Outstanding displays of silverbell (but no service berry), spring beauty, trillium, trout lily, bellwort and many more. If you missed these trips I hope you were still able to explore those areas on your own. We are fortunate to live so close to the Smokies and their beauty.

The Program/Scheduling Committee is lining up field trips and indoor meetings through next January. Look for the new schedule in your mailbox about mid-June.

But before then, there's an important extra meeting in May: on the 28th when we will be honoring Tom and Barb Hallowell. Details appear elsewhere in this issue SHORTIA. See you then!

Members Reinstated as of May 9, 1994.

- Arrington, Daisy 2940 F Windsor Woods Lane, Norcross, GA 30071
Burgess, Ralph & Adele 209 Balsam Rd., H'ville, 28792 693-0822
Butenof, Edward & Barbara 201 Red Oak Dr. 697-9773
Gray, Mary 3210 Debbie Drive 693-1970
Perry, Pat & Lois 32 Dvdaidi Court, Brevard 28712 885-2435
Sager, Mimi PO Box 816, Sagar Rd., Rosman
Schifeling, Daniel & Anna Lee 5 Dogwood Lane, Brevard 28712 885-8487
Spear, Margaret 200 Skyway Dr., Sky Village 692-6660

Add these names and addresses to your 1994 Membership List.

# *Come to the Party a farewell to the Hallowells Barbara and Tom.*

**TIME:** Sat., May 28, 1994 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
**PLACE:** CAROLINA ROOM at CAROLINA VILLAGE!

In early June, Barbara and Tom will be moving to Kendal at Longwood, a retirement community near Kennett Square, PA. We shall miss them!

The Hallowells were on hand when the Western Carolina Botanical Club was born and, with a few others, saw the club through its first growing pains. They have since contributed much to its continuing success by sharing their enthusiasm for nature, presenting outstanding slide programs, organizing "learn and share" sessions, and leading field trips and workshops.

Let's give Barb and Tom a happy send-off by attending the party on the 28th. If you are unable to come but would like to share your good wishes, please write a few lines in black ink on plain white paper. Send or give your note to Dick Smith or Elton Hansens as soon as possible!

## **ON THE MAKING OF LISTS.....BILL VERDUIN**

Are you serious about learning the names of the flowers we see? Then make your own list -- it can be a great help if made right and used right. Here are some suggestions.

**ON THE FIELD TRIP:** forget about trying to make a complete list of everything we see -- nothing to be gained by that. Let the circumstances as you walk along dictate which and how many you record. Write the name, just the act of writing helps you learn. You may be happy with only the common name but you will soon find that the Latin name is not difficult and often is very helpful. Note three or four features of the plant/flower/location, especially any that seem to differentiate this species from similar appearing flowers. Add sketches if you have the talent. Use a clipboard or other hard surface to write on. Use Newcomb's Wildflower Guide or some other field guide. Learn how to use the key in Newcomb---it is easy!

**WHEN YOU GET HOME:** DO your homework. Look up the flower in whatever suitable books you have. Organize your field notes, supplement them with info from the books, add especially any specific features that are used to differentiate the species. Use sheets of paper (not a notebook) so copies can be made. Use place and date in the heading, and file chronologically.

Now, **USE YOUR LISTS:** take a copy with you on your next field trip, some of the species will still be in bloom. Check what you

(Continue on P. 4)

have for accuracy, add relevant comments. Direct questions (about technical terms, for instance) to more knowledgeable members of the club. Next year dig out your lists for corresponding dates (not necessarily same locations), review your info on plants you might see, refresh your memory a day or two before the trip. You may be surprised at how soon you will be able to attach some names with confidence. Your own list, with your own notes, will be a great help and satisfaction. TRY IT!

## RECORDER'S REPORT - FEBRUARY THROUGH APRIL 1994....ERIKKA S. PARMİ

This spring will be engraved in my memory as "The Year of the Silverbells." The timing of some trips might have been a little off for early spring flowers, but the flowering trees more than made up for this. On the trips via I-40 to the Smokies (Roaring Fork, the Cosby/Greenbrier overnight, Fines Creek) we were treated to beautiful displays of dogwood, black locust and princess tree. Silverbell (*Halesia carolina*) was encountered on all of these trips. In places the forest canopy was a sea of white and pale pink silverbell blossoms.

Predicting peak flowering is about as predictable as predicting the weather. Too many variables must be considered, especially when scheduling must be done before the arrival of the season.

According to the Recorder's Trip Reports we hit it right at Station Cove Falls with abundant displays of *Anemone quinquefolia* (windflower), *Chrysogonum virginianum* (green and gold), *Obolaria virginica* (pennywort) and several species of violets. The Roaring Cove Nature Motor Road and the Cove Hardwood Trail at the Chimneys picnic area presented us with a total of 75 species and some spectacular displays of *Mitella diphylla* (miterwort), *Iris cristata* (crested dwarf iris), *Phacelia fimbriata* (fringed white phacelia), and *Phlox divaricata* and *P. stolonifera* (wild blue and creeping phlox). For the Smokies overnight a scouting trip revealed that most of the plants at Cosby already had blossomed, so that at the Leader's suggestion the group substituted Fines Creek where we were treated to a spectacular display of *Claytonia caroliniana* (Carolina spring beauty), *Erythronium americanum* (trout lily) and *Trillium erectum* (wake robin) all intermingled on the same slope. Five days later on May 2 on the scheduled Fines Creek trip the spring beauties and trout lilies had disappeared. *Trillium grandiflorum* (large flowered white trillium) was at its peak, as was *Delphinium tricorne* (dwarf larkspur). The road to Sugarloaf Mountain on April 29 was lined with a magnificent display of *Carolina rhododendron* but it was too early in the season for blooms in the mountain top pasture. We did see a group of *Dodecatheon meadia* (shooting star) in full bloom.

This was a much more satisfactory season than last spring---remember all the cancellations of field trips and the blizzard of March 1993! Most of this season's trips were blessed with sunny weather. Jones Gap (after botanizing in the parking lot for an hour in light rain) and the South Carolina overnight trip were cancelled.

LET'S BE SAFE.....Elton Hansens

Safety on the trail should be a prime consideration of all of us but often we are careless and court disaster. My purpose is to stimulate more thought of safety on our hikes. Let me begin by citing the case of the jogger in California who set forth in his jogging outfit and suffered a sudden fatal heart attack. His identity was learned several hours later when his wife reported to the police that he had not returned home.

How about your identity in case of a serious emergency? Do you always carry an identification? I'm quite sure that some of our ladies leave their purses (and identification) in the car. Many of us carry identification in our packs and leave them behind when carrying lunch is unnecessary. Generally the men carry identification in their billfolds on their person. But does your identification include name, address, and phone number of the person to notify in case of an emergency?

How about special health needs? Those highly allergic to bee and wasp stings should carry an emergency kit including directions for use. Possibly you carry emergency heart stimulants. Does someone on the hike know of your needs and how to administer the medication? And do you carry a list of chronic medications for emergency use in a hospital?

How about first aid kits? Some hikers carry a few first aid supplies in their pack and have larger kits in their car. I use mine so seldom that I wonder if I would remember it in a real emergency. Nonetheless, emergency items should be with us.

How about an extra leg? A walking stick can avert many a fall and can also be used to assist others to ford a stream or climb a steep place.

These are a few thoughts to consider when you prepare for your next hike. Take action too, if necessary.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU.....ALINE HANSENS

Bieg, Anne 2407 Laurel Park Hwy. Unit 4, H'ville, NC 28739 (no phone).

Cronkhite, Philip & Virginia 26 Waxwing Way, H'ville, NC (704) 692-0331. Phil and Virginia moved here about 15 years ago. Both are avidly interested in plants and flowers.

Dupree, Alfred & Agnita 24 E. Wesley Dr., Givens Estates, Asheville, NC 28803. Al, a retired chemist from Illinois, has great interest in birds and plants and a hobby of photography. Agnita, a retired teacher and administrator, looks forward to increasing her knowledge of nature. Recently, both were resident naturalists at Snowbird Mountain Lodge for a week.



Laporte, Lise 281 Laurel Dr., Fletcher, NC 28732. 684-3198. Lise lives in Vermont, is visiting this area for the summer and lives with club member Peggy Ellis. Lise is a herbalist and looks forward to club trips to assist in her study of plants.

Lee, Dianna 359 Paint Fork Rd., Barnardsville, NC 28709 (704) 6266-3776. Originally from Florida, Dianna has lived 5 years in the Asheville area. She is interested in the medicinal use of herbs and is an independent distributor for a herbal products company. She is eager to know the plants of our area.

THIS ARTICLE IS CONTINUED FROM THE SPRING 1994 SHORTIA. (ED.)

### GET A HANDLE ON PRONOUNCING SCIENTIFIC NAMES

by Larry Mellichamp

UNC Charlotte Botanical Gardens, Biology Department, Charlotte, NC 28223

These two rules take care of many ordinary pronunciations. But here are additional cases you will encounter. Many species are named after people. There are two situations: generic names and specific names. It would be nice if we could pronounce the Latin plant name so as to preserve the name of the person being commemorated. Sometimes that works well, as in *Lobelia* (after the 17th Century herbalist l'Obel), *Tradescantia* (after 17th C. royal gardener John Tradescant) and *Sarracenia* (after 18th C. Quebec botanist Michel Sarrasin). But what about our silverbell tree, *Halesia*. It was named after the Rev. Stephen Hales, yet we usually say it hal-EES-cia, rather than HALES-ee-ah. And the beautiful garden perennial stoke's aster: some say stoke-EES-cia rather than STOKES-ee-ah. Would people like to know about Dr. Jonathan Stokes? Or would they even know what name you were saying? When you say the words the way they look, you often lose something.

Similar variations concern the hard and soft pronunciation of the "ti" of such genera as *Stewartia*, *Tradescantia* and *Sabatia*. We say stew-ARE-tee-ah (or stew-ART-sha), and trad-es-CAN-tee-ah (or trad-es-CANT-sha), but sa-BAIT-she-ah (or sa-BAIT-sha); can the "ti" go either way in every case? Or should we try and preserve personal names?

The second situation deals with species names ending in i or ii, like *Senecio smallii*, *Lilium grayi*, and *Sarracenia jonesii*. Those i's are added to Latinize a non-Latin word and they should be pronounced, both of them. Thus: SMALL-ee-eye (not just SMALL-eye), GRAY-eye (the y counts as one i), and JONES-ee-eye (not joan-ESS-ee, as I have heard). Here preserving the person's name, with one or two "eye" sounds added, should be the rule. The tendency among inexperienced people is to pronounce only one "eye."

Sometimes, given alternative ways of emphasizing syllables, you would want to preserve a component of the name that refers back to a structure for which the name was chosen to reflect. For example, in the white-top pitcher plant *Sarracenia leucophylla* the species name means "white leaf") should be pronounced lew-co-PHILL-ah to preserve the Latin word "phyll" that means leaf (rather than saying lew-COPH-ill-ah as the antepenultimate Latin rule would have). And in another example, the genus of filmy fern *Trichomanes*, so-called because it has a hair-like, or trichome-like, central vein in the spore capsule, should be pronounced trike-OHM-an-knees, rather than trike-oh-MAIN-ees.

Now, for the important exception I alluded to earlier, that is, when to NOT





*Clematis virginiana*

species names with the "ae" diphthong: enchanter's-nightshade, *Circaea* (sir-SEE-ah); white-cedar, *Chamaecyparis* (came-ee-SIP-ah-rus); and hawthorn, *Crataegus* (krat-EE-gus). Do not be confused by the occurrence of "ea," which is NOT a diphthong normally, in such genera as New Jersey Tea, *Ceanothus* (see-ah-NOTH-us) and chestnut, *Castanea* (cass-TAIN-ee-ah), not cass-tan-EE-ah). As a self-quiz on this rule, try to pronounce the family of climbing fern: *Schizaeaceae*. [By the way, all family names are plural, and should be accompanied by plural verbs. For example: The *Schizaeaceae* are a family of ferns.] (answer: sky-zea-A-sea-ee).

I hope this brief lesson has helped. I'm sure you will know more examples, exceptions and variations than I have listed here. I realize it is tedious to try and put in writing the pronunciations of words and syllables, but if you are interested, you will spend many hours reading and trying to learn them. Find a willing companion, get a copy of Dr. Ritchie Bell's wildflower book (for the pictures!) and practice saying the names.

These references will be most helpful:

- Bailey, Liberty Hyde. 1933. *How Plants Get Their Names*. 181 pages. [Clear, easy to read, interesting; names with pronunciations.]
- Fernald, M.L. 1950. *Gray's Manual of Botany*. [gives pronunciation and meaning of generic and specific names of northeastern plants.]
- Johnson, A.T. & H.S. Smith. 1972. *Plant Names Simplified*. 120 pages. [Names, pronunciations and meanings.]
- Smith, A.W. and W.T. Stearn. 1972. *A Gardener's Dictionary of Plant Names*. 391 pages. [very good; extensive lists of pronunciations.]

enunciate every vowel. There are plenty of examples in Latin, just as in English, of diphthongs: a double vowel pronounced together as one. The most important diphthong in Latin names is "ae," though you will find plenty of examples of "eu" (*Eupatorium*), "oe" (*Coelogyne*), and here you do pronounce all of the latter vowels sea-LODGE-eye-knee, a tropical orchid), etc. The first place you encounter "ae" is in plant family names: *Asteraceae*, *Rosaceae*, *Geraniaceae*, etc. The "ae" is pronounced invariably as a long "e," as in "bee." (The classical Roman pronunciation would be as a long "i," as "eye.") So, as-ter-A-see-ee, and ger-ain-ee-A-see-ee. All family names end in -aceae, which is pronounced -A-see-ee (not A-see-ah), but as if it is written "a-c-e" and given the pronunciation of those exact letters). There are countless examples of generic and

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F E S W E E T S H R U B O B I S R B N L J

FIND THESE COMMON NAMES IN THE PUZZLE  
up, down, forward, backward, or any diagonal!!

Arbutus  
Baneberry  
Bellwort  
Birds-foot Violet  
Bloodroot  
Bluet  
Buttercup  
Chickweed  
Cinquefoil

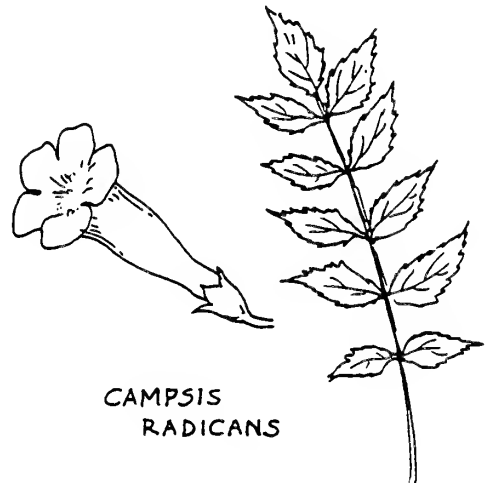
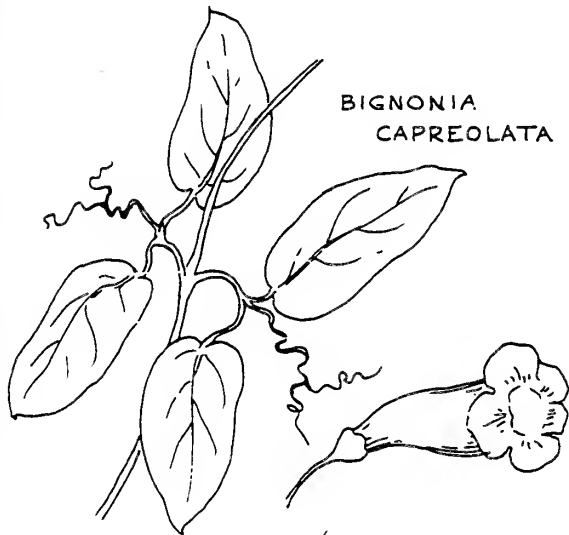
Dandelion  
Doghobble  
False Solomon's Seal  
Flowering Dogwood  
Ginger  
Ginseng  
Ground Ivy  
Iris  
Jack-in-the-Pulpit

Little Pigs  
Magnolia fraseri  
Mandarin  
Oxeye Daisy  
Phlox  
Ragwort  
Showy Orchis  
Spring Beauty  
Squaw Root

Sweet Shrub  
Toadshade  
Trillium  
Trout Lily  
Wake Robin  
Wild Geranium  
Wild Oats  
Wood Anemone  
Yellow Root

# LOOK AGAIN !

The Bignonia Family consists almost entirely of woody plants, mostly native to the tropics but often cultivated in Florida where specimens of African Tulip Tree, Jacaranda, Flame Vine and Cape Honeysuckle attract attention with their showy blossoms. In our more temperate climate, the most familiar representative is the so-called Cigar Tree or Indian Bean (Catalpa sp.), a native tree with large heart-shaped leaves and ruffled white flowers followed by slender bean-like pods more than a foot long.



Two of our woody vines--both indigenous--also claim membership in this family. The more common is Campsis radicans, Trumpet Creeper, prized by some as an ornamental but despised by others as an aggressive weed. It trails or climbs by means of aerial rootlets, and has opposite, pinnately compound leaves with up to 15 toothed leaflets. The flowers are trumpet-shaped, 2" to 3" long, and orange-red, in terminal clusters.

The other is Bignonia capreolata (Anisostichus capreolata), known as Cross Vine because the pith is cruciform in cross-section. Its leaves also are paired and compound, but they consist of only two entire leaflets, one on either side of a tendril that clings by adhesive disks. The flower clusters grow out of the axils; each 2" corolla is dull red outside and paler or yellow within.

Dick Smith

S H O R T I A

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125 Far Horizons Lane, Asheville, NC 28803. (Telephone: (704)  
277-7486.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT ON PAGE 3.

SHORTIA

c/o Ruth Hoerich  
215 Newport Road  
Hendersonville, NC 28739

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FIRST CLASS  
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# SHORTIA

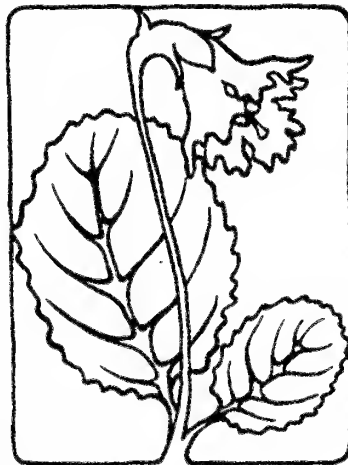
NEWSLETTER OF THE  
WESTERN CAROLINA BOTANICAL CLUB

AUTUMN 1994

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NEW YORK  
BOTANICAL GARDEN



ELTON and ALINE HANSENS  
Editors

**WESTERN CAROLINA BOTANICAL CLUB**

President:	Dorothy Rathmann	Treasurer:	Elaine Montgomery
Vice President:	Don Herrman	Recorder:	Erika Parmi
Secretary:	Jane Blackstone	Historian:	Louise Foresman

**FROM THE PRESIDENT.....Dorothy Rathmann**

On May 28 we had the sad/happy occasion of honoring Tom and Barbara Hallowell for all they contributed to WCBC since its inception. Some 50 Club members were at the party at Carolina Village to wish Tom and Barb well as they move into a new life in their retirement home in Pennsylvania. The affair brought out some "old timers" including Verna Krouse, looking as beautiful and vibrant as ever. The Club's gift to the Hallowells was a memory book created by Aline and Elton Hansens and Jeanne and Dick Smith to which each of us could add a note. Wish I could have kept a copy and that every Club member might have seen it!

Now, a more disturbing bit of news. When we returned to our cars after walking along the Shut-In Trail, Chet and Helen Wright found that someone had broken into their car and taken her purse from the trunk. The Ranger to whom they reported the loss told them that there has been a rash of such burglaries along the Parkway this summer. So -- take your valuables with you on the trail; don't leave them in the car. A nuisance, but also good insurance.

**REVISION OF PROGRAM SCHEDULE:**

**NOV. 11, FRIDAY WORKSHOP: FRUITS OF FLOWERING PLANTS.**

**Elton & Aline Hansens and Alfred Dupree. Leaders**

**Blue Ridge Community College, Patton Bldg. Multi-Purpose Room  
151 from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m.**

SIGN-UP well ahead with the Hansens, 1 (704) 277-7486. Limited to 20 participants.

**GETTING TO KNOW YOU.....ALINE HANSENS**

Bramlette, Edward & Marian 49 Robinhood Road, Brevard, NC 28712. Moving here from Athens, GA, Edward and Marian have been residents of NC since May of this year. They have great interest in plants and native landscaping. Eager to know about plants of this area, they look forward to club trips. They learned of the club through friends.



**Dillard, Jean Roeder Rt.2, Box 102-A. Turnpike Road, Horse Shoe, NC 28742.**

**Edmonds. Vaughan & Yvonne,** 158 Williams Rd., Pisgah Forest, NC 28768. (704) 884-2473.

**Goldsmith, James W.** P.O. Box 1107, Marion, NC 28803 (704) 652-3000. James lives with his wife and 3 children about 5 mi. from Old Fort. He was born and raised in Marion, NC where he now has a law practice. Around 1970 he developed a "giant curiosity" about plants and in law school he audited Dr. A. E. Radford's graduate taxonomy course, increasing his interest in plants as a hobby. In 1980 mushrooms took his fancy and he now belongs to the N.C. Mycological Assn. and the Asheville Mushroom Club. He learned of the WCBC from Ruby Pharr. He is a busy lawyer but hopes to attend some of our club's outings.

**Mills, Jr. Rick & Carolyn** 114 Nottingham Rd., Brevard, NC 28712. (704) 884 5298. Rick and Carolyn have owned a house in Sherwood Forest since 1982. In 1992 they decided to make it permanent and moved here from Dallas, TX. Their love for birds and wild flowers drew them to the area. They learned of the WCBC from members living in Sherwood Forest and hope to go on Club trips soon.

**Minton, Hugh & Lorraine** 19 Kestval Ct., Carolina Village, H'ville 28792. (704) 692-8468. Hugh and Lorraine met in Connecticut where they enjoyed hiking the AT and sharing an interest in the outdoors and nature. They moved to H'ville 1½ years ago from Aiken, SC where they had lived for 40 years. Lorraine is a volunteer at Connemara.

THANK YOU FROM THE HALLOWELLS

To our friends in the WCBC: We want to express again our appreciation for that wonderful, warm, memorable party on May 28. We realized once again what great people WCBC people are--SPECIAL!! And to top off the good refreshments and fellowship, out came that masterpiece notebook. What a treasure of happy memories--good WCBC events, places and people! It even included some lovely notes! We'll look it over MANY TIMES and think of you. Thank you for everything! We will miss the beautiful mountains with their delightful wealth of plants, birds, animals and views.

Our new home will be: 207 Kendal at Longwood, Kennett Square, PA 19348. It's only a mile from Longwood Gardens, two from the Brandywine River Museum (Wyeth), and several from Winterthur Museum, all big attractions. Come 'n see them--and US!

--Tom and Barbara Hallowell

May and June rewarded us with good weather and nice displays of wild flowers, however, on June 10 the Heintooga trip was cancelled due to rain. In July the weather began to deteriorate with high humidity, high temperatures and rain, although all hikes were made. As a change of pace we visited two gardens, Travis Tracks and Whittemore's Rock Garden, both of which had non-native species. Many of us enjoyed comparing the native species with those of Asia, Europe, New Zealand and other areas. This was particularly true of Whittemore's garden. Many of the participants asked that next year we schedule a trip there in late April when the rock garden would be at its peak bloom.

This has been a year of travel for me and the realization that the WCBC has succeeded in teaching me something about the wild flowers of our country. It was gratifying to recognize the genus and sometimes the species of the many beautiful western prairie flowers. Some of the flowers that put on a multi-colored show for me at Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota were western salsify (Tragopogon dubius) which looked like a huge dandelion, especially its fluffy white fruiting head; the familiar harebell or bluebell (Campanula rotundifolia); leafy spurge (Euphorbia esula); northern bedstraw (Galium boreale) outshone our local species; prickly pear cactus (Opuntia polyacantha) which seemed to be a low-growing compact version of the southwestern prickly pear; purple coneflower (Echinacea angustifolia); yellow prairie coneflower (Ratibida columnifera); scarlet gaura (Gaura coccinea); showy milkweed (Asclepias speciosa); wavy leaf thistle (Cirsium undulatum); western wallflower (Erysimum asperum); several species of penstemon; the outstanding beauty of the western red lily, a deep red and relatively short species related to Lilium philadelphicum; and last, but not least, the white sego lily (Calochortus nuttalli) with striking reddish brown or purple markings at the base of the white petals.

In other parts of the Dakotas I saw beautiful displays of dame's rocket (Hesperis matronalis) which is becoming familiar to us through the NC DOT plantings along our highways; Patagonian plantain (Plantago patagonica) -- a really showy form of our common plantain; blue flax (Linum perenne); pincushion cactus (Mamillaria vivipara) with its striking pink two inch blossoms nestled at the foot of the various prairie grasses; silvery lupine (Lupinus argenteus) just beginning to blossom; the abundant Canada anemone (Anemone canadensis) and various species of milk vetches (Astragalus spp.) ranging in color from white to deep purple. The Nebraska prairie impressed me with its beautiful, low growing prairie roses (Rosa arkansas), prickly pear cactus and a species of spiderwort (Tradescantia) that preferred dry hillsides.

Now I am off to see what the month of August has to offer botanically in the Oregon Cascades!



Basswood, also known as American Linden belongs to the family Tiliaceae. Disagreement among researchers on the taxonomy of the genus Tilia has led to much confusion over the number of species and whether, in fact, they are simply one species with variants.

The southern species found in this area is Tilia heterophylla or white basswood. This is a fast growing, hardy tree, dominant in the cove hardwood forests of the Smokies up to 5000' elevation. It is easily recognized by its basal sprouts which often ring the tree.

The 5" to 10" leaves are fine toothed, somewhat heart-shaped and appear silvery white underneath when riffled by the wind.

The perfect 5-petaled, yellowish flowers hang in clusters suspended from a leafy bract by a long slender stem. Flowers appear after the leaves are fully developed in June of early July. Attracting a barrage of bees and other insects, the fragrant blossoms produce an abundance of nectar from which the bees make choice basswood honey.

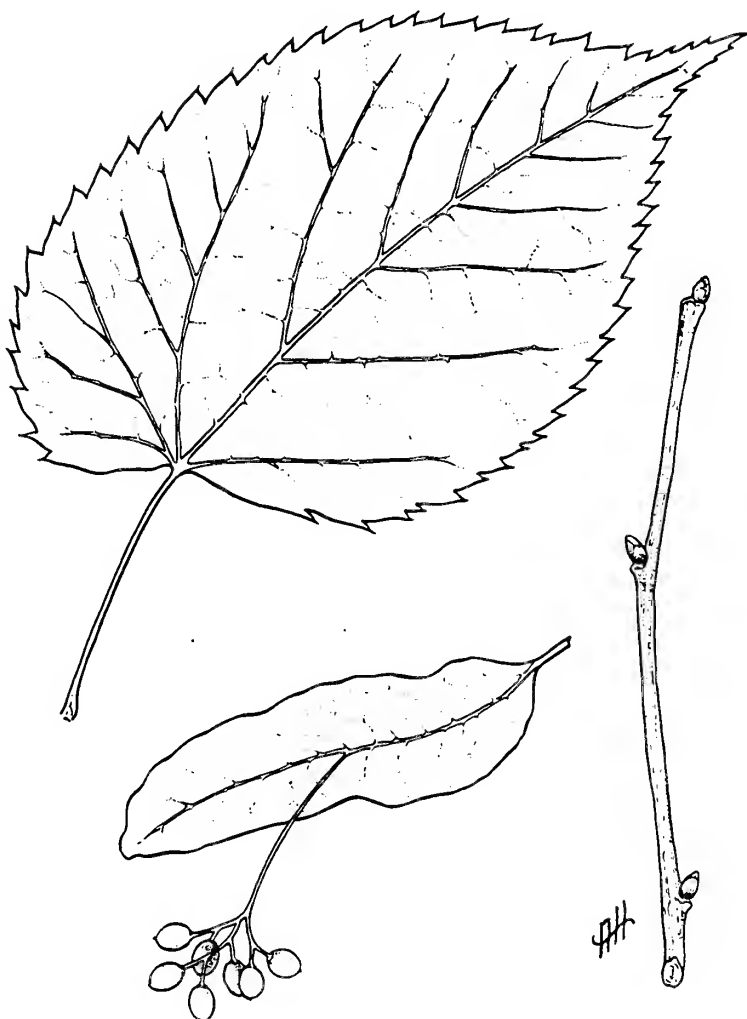
In early fall small nut-like fruits litter the ground, their leafy bracts acting like parachutes carrying them beyond the perimeter of the tree.

The dark gray bark of older trees is deeply furrowed into narrow flat-topped ridges with characteristic horizontal cracks.

Basswood is a compact symmetrical tree that may grow to a height of 70 to 90 feet with a trunk 2 to 3 feet in diameter. In the Chimneys Campground area of the Smokies there is said to be a stump measuring 12 feet in circumference, possibly the second largest in North Carolina.

The white to creamy brown wood of the basswood tree is valued for its color, light weight and good woodworking qualities. The bast fibers of its inner bark make strong cords, fish nets, and mats.

## BASSWOOD



## PLANTS VERSUS INSECTS ..... Dorothy Rathmann

Plants contain various compounds that seem to play no obvious role in their metabolism. Presumably, their production is genetically programmed. But it is not "for free"; it costs the plant energy which must be diverted from growth and development.

Conceivably, it would be advantageous for the plant to produce such compounds only when needed. During the past 30 years or so, scientists have found that this may actually happen. Plants do not remain passive while being damaged by insects, or herbivores, or humans. They can counterattack.

For example, when an insect chews on a leaf of tomato, potato, or alfalfa, a chemical message travels rapidly throughout the plant, inducing it to synthesize proteins which interfere with digestion in the insect's gut. It may continue to eat, but literally starves, becomes weak and much more susceptible to infections and predators. Or -- A wild potato plant, attacked by aphids, may respond by secreting a compound which mimics the aphid's natural alarm pheromone and they flee as if from a predator. Or -- A tropical ageratum may start making a compound that blocks the insect's juvenile hormone so that the larvae molt prematurely and do not develop properly.

When trees such as oaks, maples, beeches, conifers are attacked by caterpillars, the concentration of phenolic compounds, tannins and resins, increases in the leaves so they become less palatable and much less digestible. The tree also seems to be able to forewarn its close neighbors which are not yet under attack. Gypsy moth caterpillars, for example, grow less well on trees that have recovered from a prior attack or were close to such trees, but grow normally on trees at a distance from the infested one.

And then, there's the fascinating case of a predatory wasp. Parasitic wasps may lay eggs in a living caterpillar to ensure that the emerging larvae will be surrounded by good food. But how does the wasp locate the host? One logical hypothesis is that it detects volatile compounds given off by the caterpillar. And that is true. However, the plant gets into the game, too. As the caterpillar starts chewing on its leaves, the plant starts to emit something which in effect says to the wasp: "Here is the caterpillar!"

Interesting bits of information? Yes! Behind them is serious research which may lead -- possibly by genetic engineering -- to the development of plants more resistant to pests so we will need to use less chemical pesticides.

For more detail: G.A. Rosenthal, THE CHEMICAL DEFENSES OF HIGHER PLANTS, Scientific American Vol. 254, pages 94-99 (January 1986). J.C. Schultz, TREE TACTICS, Natural History Vol. 92, pages 12-25 (May 1983). J.H. Tumlinson, W.J. Lewis & L.E.M. Vet, HOW PARASITIC WASPS FIND THEIR HOSTS, Scientific American, Vol. 266, pages 100-106 (March 1993).

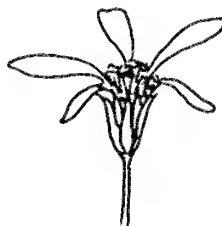
# LOOK AGAIN !

Among the many yellow-flowered composites occurring in our region are a couple of very tall (6 ft. or more) plants in the genus Verbesina. They may be readily recognized by their stems, which are conspicuously winged by the decurrent bases of the leaf stalks.

Verbesina alternifolia, known simply as Wingstem, has lanceolate leaves arranged alternately, and numerous flower heads in an open panicle. The disk flowers spread widely to form small globose heads, and there are between 2 and 10 drooping rays varying in length from  $\frac{1}{2}$ " to 1". The involucre has only a few reflexed bracts.



V. ALTERNIFOLIA



V. OCCIDENTALIS

V. occidentalis, Yellow Crownbeard, has opposite, ovate leaves, and its flowers are loosely arranged in an open flat-topped corymb. In this species the disk flowers are erect, the rays number less than 6 and are under  $\frac{3}{4}$ " long, and the involucre has numerous and not reflexed bracts.

A third member of the genus is V. virginica. It also has a winged stem, but there are only 3 to 5 very short rays, and both the disk and ray flowers are white. It is commonly referred to as White Crownbeard.

There are other genera in the Asteraceae with plants having winged stems, but none attains as great a height as these three species.

Dick Smith

S H O R T I A

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125 Far Horizons Lane, Asheville, NC 28803. (Tel. (704) 277-7486.

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c/o Ruth Hoerich  
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Hendersonville, NC 28739

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FIRST CLASS  
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# SHORTIA

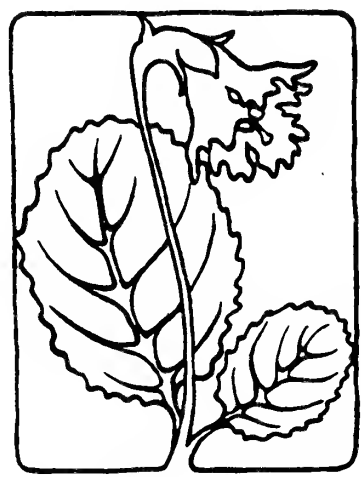
NEWSLETTER OF THE  
WESTERN CAROLINA BOTANICAL CLUB

WINTER 1994-95

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BOTANICAL GARDEN



ELTON and ALINE HANSENS  
Editors

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**WESTERN CAROLINA BOTANICAL CLUB**

President:	Don Herrman	Treasurer:	Elaine Montgomery
Vice President:		Recorder:	Erika Parmi
Secretary:	Jane Blackstone	Historian:	Louise Foresman

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**A COUPLE OF FAREWELLS ..... Dorothy Rathmann**

As some of you already know, I have resigned as president of WCBC for health reasons. It's been a pleasure and a privilege to serve for the past year and a half. My thanks to every one of you for your support and encouragement. I expect to continue as an active member for I treasure the friendships I've made within the club and the stimulus that comes from being with you on the trails, learning more about the flora of this area.

With no warning, Don Herrman took over my duties quickly and easily two months ago and will be continuing as president. I'm sure he will get your support as I did.

Work has started on the Program/Schedule for next spring with the goal of distributing it in January. This is probably the most time-consuming and challenging task within WCBC -- and the most important because the field trips and indoor meetings are the club's reason for being. We need more field trip leaders -- so volunteer or say "yes" if you're asked.

This time, the scheduling has been made particularly difficult by the absence of **Bill Verduin** -- the gentle leader, mentor and teacher who seemingly knows every trail in the area and has a particular love for those in the Smokies. Yet, he has been constantly exploring to find new trails for our trips. As a good teacher he's prodded us to use the keys in our field guides to identify plants for ourselves rather than merely depending on the "experts" to call out the names. In this, he's always willing to share his own knowledge, quietly and enthusiastically.

Bill, we're going to miss you! We wish you and Evelyn many years of happiness in your new home:

Bill and Evelyn Verduin  
3108 Lake Village Drive  
Richmond, VA 23235

Do come back to visit us, often!

**REPORT OF THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE FOR 1995.**

President	Donald Herrman	Secretary	Laverne Pearson
Vice-president	Dean Crawford	Treasurer	Elaine Montgomery

HARRY LOGAN -- A TRIBUTE

Jan. 21 1906 - Sept. 8, 1994

Those who knew him remember a man--gentle, kind, sensitive, generous, thoughtful and one who could be exasperating at times in his eagerness to share an abundant knowledge and love of plants. You never left Harry's house without a generous gift from his garden. He was a founding father of the Western Carolina Botanical Club and participated extensively in its activities until a few days before his death.

He requested that the Botanical Club spread his ashes on Roan Mountain, an area close to his heart. Appropriately, this quote from Wordsworth was read as part of a brief ceremony on the mountain.

For I have learned  
To look on nature, not as in the hour  
Of thoughtless youth; but hearing oftentimes  
The still, sad music of humanity,  
Nor harsh nor grating, though of ample power  
To chasten and subdue. And I have felt  
A presence that disturbs me with the joy  
Of elevated thoughts; a sense sublime  
Of something far more deeply interfused,  
Whose dwelling is the light of setting suns,  
And the round ocean and the living air,  
And the blue sky, and in the mind of man:  
A motion and a spirit, that impels  
All thinking things, all objects of all thought,  
And rolls through all things. Therefore am I still  
A lover of the meadows and the woods,  
And mountains.

—Wordsworth.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU.....ALINE HANSENS

Stolle, William & Mollie Rt. 1. Box 307A Clyde, NC 28721 (704) 627-0111. Love of the mountains drew them to this area 2 years ago from Orlando, FL. Mollie's desire to know plants stems from an interest in herbal medicine. They found the WCBC through member Peggy Ellis.



In spite of the rainy, humid summer, with a major flood in mid August, most of the field trips were held as scheduled. The Frying Pan Gap trip on August 5 and the Whiteside Mountain trip on October 14 were cancelled because of rain. On October 28 the McCall Cemetary Loop trip was cancelled because floods had blocked access. There were several outstanding trips in August (all of which I missed). The August 12 trip along Sky Valley road (previously called Pinnacle Mountain) was held on a beautiful day and approximately 50 species of flowers were identified including the rarely seen pencil flower (Stylosanthes biflora), fame flower (Talinum teretifolium) and orange grass or pinweed (Hypericum gentianoides). Two very interesting and informative non-flower trips were held in August--Elton's insect walk and a mushroom walk and talk given by Roman Stanley of the Asheville Mushroom Club. The September 9 trip to the Clemson Experimental Forest exposed us to southern piedmont species which we seldom see. A trip to Camp Harry Straus (Ecusta Park in Brevard) was substituted for the inaccessible Butter Gap trail. Many flowers were seen. (Hopefully, Ecusta will sell the property to someone who wishes to keep it in its natural state.) On Oct. 21 a very wet and slippery Jones Gap Trail produced very few flowering plants. Unfortunately, one of our members slipped and took a fall which resulted in numerous bruises and a head wound that required stitches.

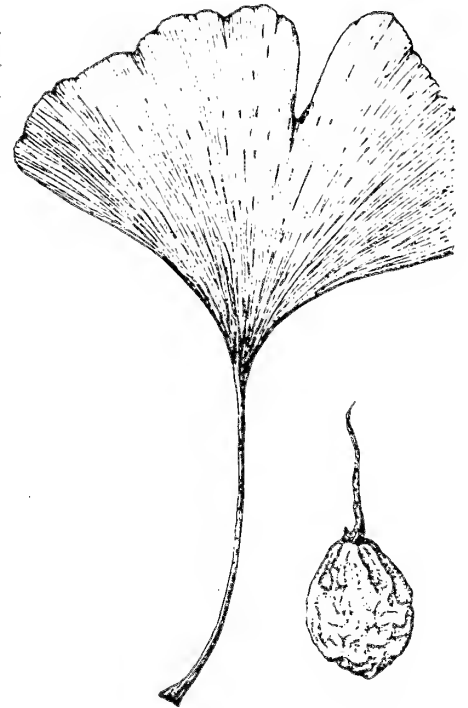
As a result of the accident I will get on my soap box and promote the carrying of hiking staffs on our field trips. As we get older or because of a physical disability, we all get a bit more unsteady on our feet. I was advised by my doctor to continue hiking but carry a hiking staff. The staff is especially helpful in tough terrain and I know that it has stopped me from falling several times. If you are tired a staff makes a great "post" to lean on!! Add a wrist strap to the staff and you can hang on to the staff and write a plant list at the same time.

I will close with a few words about Bill and Evelyn Verduin. We will be sorry to lose them to Richmond, Virginia. Bill, especially, will be missed, because of his dedication to the WCBC. His tremendous knowledge of the flowers and the best places to find them, and his cheerful and helpful disposition were and still are an inspiration to us all. Best wishes for many happy years in Virginia is our wish for Bill and Evelyn!!

**NEW BOOK** Swanson, Robt. E. A Field Guide to the Trees and Shrubs of the Southern Appalachians. 1994 Johns Hopkins Press.



The Ginkgo tree (Ginkgo biloba) is a most unusual and beautiful tree. My first acquaintance with this tree was in Washington, D.C. where there are numerous plantings. Many other Asian ornamental trees are planted in Washington including the impressive and lovely Japanese cherry trees. Among all of them I find the ginkgo to be the most interesting. It is a tall, sparsely branched, truly prehistoric looking tree. The branches are upright on the young trees but the crown spreads out with age. The ginkgo, possibly the oldest living tree species on earth, has no close relatives. It has remained almost unchanged since the time of the dinosaurs, one hundred twenty-five million years ago. The ginkgo has high resistance to disease and insect pests which helped it outlast the dinosaurs and make it especially suitable for city parks and gardens. Native to eastern China, the tree has long been cultivated in Japan and in many parts of the world, including the Western Hemisphere.



The interesting shape of the ginkgo leaf has suggested many things to many cultures. The Chinese name for the tree, "ya chio" means "duck's foot". Because the leaf resembles the maidenhair fern, one common name is "maidenhair tree". The leaves are fan-shaped, leathery, with numerous thin parallel veins that give the ribbed-look. In autumn ginkgos turn a brilliant glossy yellow.

The male and female flowers are on separate trees; the male, showy yellow, in thick heavy clusters; the female, like a small acorn on a long stalk. The fruits, of course, are only borne by female trees and are round, pulpy, about an inch in diameter, smooth and green, becoming yellow and wrinkled when "ripe". The fruit rots on the ground in the fall and has an unpleasant odor. Nurseries try to propagate male trees only. They often fail for only older female trees produce fruit. Often gardeners are surprised when their trees purchased as "male" trees after decades of fruitlessness suddenly begin to produce very odorous fruits.

If you wish to see ginkgo trees locally several beautiful specimens grow in the yard of "Connemara" the Carl Sandburg home in Flat Rock.

*"All those who love Nature she loves in return, and will richly reward, not perhaps with the good things as they are commonly called, but the best things of this world - - not with money and titles, horses and carriages, but with bright and happy thoughts, contentment and peace of mind" --(John Lubbock)*

*Contributed by Millie Pearson. How often have you heard her speak of "bright and happy thoughts"?*

# FOREST TREES .....ALINE HANSENS

## TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE !!

Match common with scientific names.

- |                     |                                    |                  |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 American beech    | ___ <i>Abies fraseri</i>           | PINACEAE         |
| 2 Black gum         | ___ <i>Tsuga canadensis</i>        | PINACEAE         |
| 3 Black locust      | ___ <i>Juglans nigra</i>           | JUGLANDACEAE     |
| 4 Black walnut      | ___ <i>Carya ovata</i>             | JUGLANDACEAE     |
| 5 Chestnut oak      | ___ <i>Betula alleghaniensis</i>   | CORYLACEAE       |
| 6 Flowering dogwood | ___ <i>Betula nigra</i>            | CORYLACEAE       |
| 7 Fraser fir        | ___ <i>Fagus grandifolia</i>       | FAGACEAE         |
| 8 Fraser magnolia   | ___ <i>Quercus prinus</i>          | FAGACEAE         |
| 9 Hemlock           | ___ <i>Magnolia fraseri</i>        | MAGNOLIACEAE     |
| 10 Mountain maple   | ___ <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> | MAGNOLIACEAE     |
| 11 Redbud           | ___ <i>Sassafras albidum</i>       | LAURACEAE        |
| 12 River birch      | ___ <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> | HAMAMELIDACEAE   |
| 13 Pignut hickory   | ___ <i>Platanus occidentalis</i>   | PLATANACEAE      |
| 14 Sassafras        | ___ <i>Amelanchier laevis</i>      | ROSACEAE         |
| 15 Serviceberry     | ___ <i>Cercis canadensis</i>       | FABACEAE         |
| 16 Silverbell       | ___ <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>    | FABACEAE         |
| 17 Sourwood         | ___ <i>Acer pensylvanicum</i>      | ACERACEAE        |
| 18 Striped maple    | ___ <i>Acer spicatum</i>           | ACERACEAE        |
| 19 Sweetgum         | ___ <i>Aesculus octandra</i>       | HIPPOCASTANACEAE |
| 20 Sycamore         | ___ <i>Tilia heterophylla</i>      | TILIACEAE        |
| 21 Tulip tree       | ___ <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>         | NYSSACEAE        |
| 22 White ash        | ___ <i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>     | ERICACEAE        |
| 23 White basswood   | ___ <i>Halesia carolina</i>        | STYRACACEAE      |
| 24 Yellow birch     | ___ <i>Fraxinus americana</i>      | OLEACEAE         |
| 25 Yellow buckeye   | ___ <i>Cornus florida</i>          | CORNACEAE        |

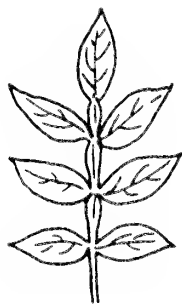
# LOOK AGAIN !

Most of us are aware that Poison Sumac (Toxicodendron vernix) contains oils that can cause a severe skin rash upon contact. We tend to be especially apprehensive about this species--even though Poison Ivy (T. radicans) and Poison Oak (T. toxicarium) pose the same threat--perhaps because we so often find ourselves in close proximity to plants that go by the name of Sumac without knowing which is which.

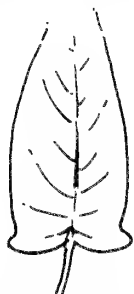
Poison Sumac is a shrub or small tree with numerous pinnate leaflets, but it is the only one of several similar-appearing plants in our area that is toxic. Of this group, the true Sumacs, which are harmless, are in the genus Rhus, and together they differ in having dense terminal flower clusters followed by red fruits, whereas Poison Sumac has loose axillary panicles of flowers, and its fruits are whitish.



TOXICODENDRON VERNIX



RHUS COPALLINA



AILANTHUS ALTISSIMA

Smooth Sumac (R. glabra) and Staghorn Sumac (R. typhina) are generally similar, and both may have as many as 31 sharply toothed leaflets. However, the younger branches are smooth and glaucous on the former and densely velvety with soft brown hairs on the latter. R. copallina, known as Winged Sumac, is finely hairy, has fewer leaflets (and they are mostly entire), and the leafstalks are prominently winged between the pairs of leaflets.

Frequently mistaken for a Sumac is the unrelated Ailanthus altissima, the indomitable Tree of Heaven celebrated in the novel "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn." Its leaflets are even more numerous, and the margins are entire except for two or more gland-bearing teeth near the base. The fruits are dry samaras with a seed in the center.

Dick Smith

S H O R T I A

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Please submit contributions (articles, letters, notes, etc.) for the next issue by February 15, 1995 to Elton Hansens, 125 Far Horizons Lane, Asheville, NC 28803. (Tel. (704) 277-7486).

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FIRST CLASS  
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